

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02328 110903Z

12

ACTION INR-07

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6753

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2328

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, PINT, CH

SUBJ: HUA KUO-FENG: SARTORIAL SIDELIGHTS

REFS: A) STATE 272583, B) HONG KONG 13045

1. USLO REGRETS THAT IT CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR REFUTE THE REPORTED SIGHTING OF HUA KUO-FENG ATTIRE IN PLA UNIFORM AT THE MAY 1975 PLA SPORTS MEET.

2. CANADIAN MILITARY ATTACHE WHO ATTENDED RALLY AND PASSED INFORMATION (REF B) HAS DEPARTED PEKING. HIS SUCCESSOR RECALLS NO MENTION OF HUA'S ATTIRE -- EVERYONE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT TENG HSIAO-PING AND HIS ATTIRE -- AND CAN FIND NOTHING PERTINENT

IN HIS FILES.

3. WE NOTE THAT THE MAY 26, 1975 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIES A FRONT PAGE STORY ON THE CLOSING CEREMONY. THAT STATES LI TA DELIVERED THE CLOSING SPEECH AND MAKES NO MENTION OF

HUA OR ANYONE ELSE "ANNOUNCING" THE CLOSING OF THE GAMES (REF A). THE PICTURE OF THE LEADERSHIP PRINTED ALONGSIDE THE STORY IS TOO SMALL AND BLURRED TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY LET ALONE THE CLOTHING OF THEN-LESSER LEADERS. THE INDIVIDUAL SEATED IN THE POSITION WHICH IN PROTOCOL ORDER OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY HUA DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN MILITARY UNIFORM, HOWEVER.

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GATES

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